FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CORDOBA PROVINCIAL CABINET RESIGNS; NEW MINISTERS SWORN IN

All Cordoba Ministers Resign

PY021343 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1311 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 2 Feb (NA)--All the ministers of the provincial executive branch have submitted their resignations because of Governor Carlos Chasseing's resignation, which was accepted yesterday by President Jorge Videla. The mayor, Col Hector Romanutti (ret), has also submitted his resignation.

Outgoing Governor Talks to Newsmen

PY021405 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0350 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 1 Feb (TELAM)--On his arrival in Cordoba, Brig Gen Carlos Bernardo Chasseing (ret) stated: "I have great respect for President Videla and despite my separation from this post I am still identified with the national reorganization process."

Journalists overwhelmed the outgoing governor with questions about the specific reasons for his resignation, which was accepted this afternoon by President Videla, who appointed as acting governor the present Cordoba interior minister, Col Miguel Angel Marini (ret).

Answering a question as to whether he will continue to be active in public life, General Chasseing stated: "I will not continue being active in public life. I have always said this is a combat post. I have been very happy in my military career, for which I have always had a great inclination. Although I have deep respect for politicians, I have no political inclinations."

Responding to a question, the former Cordoba governor said: "I want to make it clear that this meeting or any other future meeting with the president is a meeting between two old soldiers. We said goodby like the two good friends we have always been. There are times in one's life when one views things differently, and in my case I disagree with some important aspects of that resolution." [as received]

"Regarding the Cordoba people, I have always maintained that there are many things to be done and much to be settled in the national reorganization process." He alluded to the intellectualism of the Cordoba people and expressed his optimism about the development of the process. He thanked the Cordoba mass media for the courtesy and moderation shown during this situation.

He said he will meet with the press on Friday together with Minister Marini to expand details regarding the budget and its impact on national and provincial activities.

Interim Governor, Others Sworn In

PY021647 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1552 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 2 Feb (NA)--Interim Governor Col Miguel Angel Marini (ret) was sworn in today at government house. He replaces Gen Carlos Chasseing (ret), who resigned.

Marini, who was government minister, swore in his successor, Col Orlando Duarte, just after he himself had been sworn in.

The interim governor also swore in the new economy minister, Antonio Tarantino, and Social Welfare Minister Air Force Col Edgardo Carlos Stahl. Tarantino and Stahl replace Gen Jose Mirat and Jorge Martinez Thompson, whose resignations were accepted today.

CORDOBA PAPER UPHOLDS GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO RESIGN

PY021648 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1355 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 2 Feb (NA)--The local morning newspaper LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR stated in today's editorial that the national government's attitude in accepting Cordoba Governor Chasseing's resignation is "contradictory, negative and offensive." It emphasized the fact that "while a serious government crisis is taking place in Cordoba, the ministers of economy and the interior, who were directly involved with the problem, are in Africa on safari."

The Cordoba newspaper also states in its editorial entitled "Offense to Cordoba Sovereignty" that "General Chasseing's resignation of the provincial governorship and its acceptance by the national executive branch is a very serious event with consequences which are still difficult to predict."

The editorial also states: "When no one was expecting it, when we all presumed that Cordoba would maintain the institutional stability that is almost 3 years old, a crisis emerged between the governor and the president which unfortunately could not be solved in favor of provincial interests."

LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR adds: "It should be stated categorically that the resigning governor was right. Cordoba is not in a position to comply with the aid requested by the national government which consisted, among other things, of the province voluntarily giving up its share of the regional development fund for 1979."

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR PARAGUAY

PY021641 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1425 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (TELAM)--The chief of the Foreign Ministry's River Plate Basin Department, Arturo Osorio Arana, left for Asuncion, Paraguay, at 0900 today from Ezeiza International Airport on Aerolineas Argentina flight No 210. He made no comment.

According to diplomatic sources, it is believed that his trip is "related to Paraguay's response which is still pending in regard to the Argentine proposal for reconciling the Corpus and Itaipu dams." Sources close to the Foreign Ministry believe the new mission entrusted to Osorio Arana is a continuation of the negotiations carried out by Rear Adm Horacio Colombo in Paraguay on 17 January 1979.

Visit Linked to Yacyreta Project

PY030040 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2322 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (NA)--An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry reported tonight that the visit by Minister Arturo Osorio Arana to Asuncion, Paraguay, concerns only a specific problem related to Yacyreta. The spokesman also stated that the Foreign Ministry will not issue any type of statement concerning the Corpus problem.

FOREIGN MINISTER: GOVERNMENT WILL AGREE TO PAPAL MEDIATION

PY030033 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 3 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 2 Feb (TELAM-ANSA)--Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho said today that "our country will agree to a possible mediation by Pope John Paul II in trying to find a solution to the 100-year-old landlocked problem caused by the war with Chile." Talking to the press, the minister added that "Bolivian demands for an outlet to the sea are just, based not only on historical reasons but on reasons of national survival."

OPPOSITION FRONT SUFFERING INTERNAL CRISIS OVER ELECTIONS

PY311413 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0323 GMT 31 Jan 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 30 Jan (LATIN)--The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP], the foremost opposition force in the 1978 elections in Bolivia, today suffered its first serious internal crisis when two political groups left its ranks, according to reports given LATIN by FUDP sources.

The Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement [MRTK], a peasant group, officially announced its separation from the front, while the recently formed Democratic Offensive of the Left [Ofensiva de Izquierda Democratica--OID] announced its decision to nominate former President Luis Adolfo Salinas as its candidate in the coming July elections. The OID openly stated its opposition to the presidential candidacy of Hernan Siles Zuazo, another former president who is considered the top FUDP leader.

The division in the FUDP became a fact today after a number of internal disagreements arose regarding the electoral formula it was to support in the July elections.

Siles Zuazo was nominated presidential candidate by his party, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], and by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR]. The highest leader of the latter group, Jaime Paz Zamora, was proposed for the vice presidency. The OID maintained tonight that the nomination of Siles Zuazo and Paz Zamora notably reduces the FUDP's appeal and stated its support for Siles Salinas together with Guillermo Aponte Burela, of the Socialist Party.

The MRTK, one of the five peasant groups with different political positions into which the largest Bolivian working class is divided, charged today that it left the FUDP because of the arbitrary decision on candidacies on the part of the MNRI and the MIR.

In the abortive elections in July 1978, the FUDP obtained support from large sectors of voters, particularly in rural areas and in poor urban districts. The front comprises, apart from the Moscow-leaning Bolivian Communist Party, more than 10 center-left parties and groups which have not yet made any statements regarding the crisis shaking their front.

BRIEFS

INDIAN TECHNICAL MISSION VISITING--A technical mission from the Government of India yesterday initiated talks with government authorities and representatives of the nation's private industrial sector in an effort designed to increase commercial relations between the two countries. The mission has been in La Paz since last week and has already met with the minister of industry and commerce, offering him India's technical assistance and advice in matters concerning foreign trade. [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Jan 79 p 5 PY]

OFFICIAL SOURCES DENY 'PENDING PROBLEMS' WITH BOLIVIA

FY021420 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Feb 79 FY

[Text] Chilean experts and diplomats have reasserted that Chile has no pending matters with Bolivia. The statement issued by Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho, who said that Chile and Bolivia have pending problems that must be solved, caused surprise among Chilean circles. Chilean Foreign Ministry sources noted in this regard that Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos was quite clear in a recent statement when he said there are no pending matters between the two countries after Bolivia unilatterally decided to break diplomatic relations with Chile.

Diplomatic experts stated that our country is well known for its traditional respect for international treaties and agreements which prevail between two countries. They added that Chile agreed to start negotiations with Bolivia to try to overcome Bolivia's land-locked situation, and that these talks got underway precisely because the two countries maintained diplomatic relations and both had diplomatic representatives appointed to La Paz and Santiago, thus making the dialog possible. But they added that all this abruptly stopped when Bolivia unilaterally decided in March 1978 to break relations with Chile.

Moreover, diplomatic experts noted that all Latin American countries were witnesses to the efforts made by Chile to seek a solution to Bolivia's landlocked problem. They added that these efforts materialized when Chile offered a corridor north of Arica which would give Bolivia access to the sea, and that if this proposition was not successful, it was not because of ill will on the part of Chile since the final decision did not depend solely on Chile but on a previous agreement with Peru. The experts reasserted that with all these references, it is absurd to say that Chile has not tried to find a solution to the Bolivian problem.

SANTIAGO PAPER HEARS UNFRIENDLY VOICES IN BOLIVIA

PY021700 Paris AFP in Spanish 1604 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 2 Feb (AFP)--The newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA remarked here today that voices unfriendly to Chile have emerged in Bolivia and will increase in the coming months. In its editorial, the popular morning newspaper comments on the recent statements made by Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho regarding his country's desire to gain an outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

LA TERCERA stated: "It does not surprise our country that as soon as the centenary year of the Pacific war began, voices unfriendly toward Chile are being heard in Bolivia." "Everything points to the fact that this atmosphere will increase as the months go by," the editorial adds.

The newspaper indicated that in 1975 Chile proposed a path of territorial exchange as a means of granting Bolivia access to the sea. According to the editorial, this path was ruled out when the La Paz government broke diplomatic relations with Santiago.

BRIEFS

ZAMBIAN COPPER EXPERTS--A delegation of copper experts from Zambia arrived in Santiago yesterday afternoon. They have come to Chile with two objectives: First, to talk with Chilean authorities about copper trade and, second, to obtain Chilean training for Zambian technicians. There is also a possibility that Chilean technicians will go to work in Zambia. The mission will stay in Chile until Thursday. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Jan 79 FY]

ELECTIONS DELAYED 3 WEEKS AT REQUEST OF ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Tribunal Requests Delay

PA022208 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1523 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Quito, 2 Feb (LATIN)--The Ecuadorean [Supreme] Electoral Tribunal has decided to propose to the military government the postponement of the presidential and legislative elections set for 8 April, it was announced here officially. The postponement, which would not affect the 10 August deadline for handing over power to civilians, was requested by 4 of the 10 legally recognized parties, a tribunal spokesman said today.

Government Postpones Elections

PA030148 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Quito, 2 Feb (EFE)--The Ecuadorean military government today postponed from 8 April to 29 April the presidential and legislative elections convoked as part of the process aimed at reestablishing democracy. The government has also reformed the elections law in order to permit university professors and public employees to run for deputy in the unicameral parliament. The government ordered the postponement of the elections and the elections law reform at the request of the [Supreme Electoral] Tribunal, which took action at the prompting of a group of political parties. Under the new conditions, the law permits the list of candidates for deputy to be filed until 29 February.

Presidential Candidates Comment

PA041239 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2359 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 3 Feb (EFE)--The two presidential candidates, populist Jaime Roldos and rightist Sixto Duran Ballen, have criticized the postponement of presidential elections to reestablish a democratic government in Ecuador. The military government decided last night to postpone the presidential runoff election and legislative elections from 8 to 29 April in response to a request made by several political parties and approved by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

According to Roldos, who obtained a plurality in the first round of presidential elections in July, the request made by the traditional parties and the government's immediate consent is proof of the ties which exist among them. The problems alleged by the political parties in making up candidate tickets cannot be corrected in a few days, said Roldos. Therefore, I consider the postponement further "mockery" of the Ecuadorean people, who are becoming accustomed to postponements in reestablishing democracy. It is symptomatic of their aim to create new obstacles to the people's attaining power.

In statements to a local newspaper, Sixto Duran Ballen said that there is no justification for postponing the elections. Nevertheless, he conceded that it would be appropriate to extend the deadline for the registry of legislative candidates. This deadline has in effect been extended from 7 to 28 February; that is, 60 days before the elections.

The president and the 69 deputies who will be elected in April will take office on 10 August according to the plan for reestablishing democracy. A period of 9 years of dictatorship will end on that date.

AUTHORITIES ADOPT MEASURES TO STOP BANK ROBBERIES

PA021754 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Representatives of the Interior Ministry and the private sector met at the headquarters of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] yesterday to discuss the implementation of new corrective measures aimed at stopping robberies of banks and other organizations. The increase in bank robberies has alarmed the citizenry.

The persons who participated in the PTJ meeting drafted a report which will be presented to the National Police Council. According to Luis Naranjo Diaz, PTJ's chief for bank security, the report contained suggestions such as increasing personnel and undercover surveillance at banks and surrounding areas.

Robberies must be stopped at whatever cost, was the general consensus at the meeting held by officials of the Interior Ministry, the PTJ and private security organizations. The new measures that were adopted include vigilance by plainclothesmen inside and outside banks, the training of vigilance personnel and the setting up of [words indistinct]. It was also learned that other security entities and military intelligence forces are also participating in the investigations of the recent robberies.

The police organizations are coordinating a large operation aimed at ending this situation. It is presumed that former guerrillas, common criminals and former policemen are connected with the latest criminal actions. They are accused of carrying out bank robberies in Caracas and the country's interior.

It was reported that greater police vigilance is needed in order to prevent new robberies. The police trust that the criminals will be captured soon.

The Interior Ministry, the PTJ and other security organizations have vowed that they will stop the robberies, Naranjo Diaz stated. He said that incentives will be created for those agents who are posted at bank branches and who are able to frustrate any criminal action. (?This stresses) the importance of their duties to the rest of the country.

Naranjo Diaz said that all of this was agreed to in the meeting held with representatives of the various [words indistinct]. He said that they discussed very important matters to improve the surveillance and security of bank branches.

He added that the measures are being reviewed at the highest levels of the country's security organizations, particularly by PTJ officials. Naranjo refused to explain what had been reviewed because, he said, that would be giving clues to the criminals. He noted: What we are trying to do is stop the robberies which have been increasingly afflicting our banks.

He concluded by stating that he was very optimistic and that the results of the review, in which other police organizations and the national guard participated, will soon be evident.

POLICE SPOKESMAN ON EXTREME LEFT'S ROLE IN ROBBERIES

PA020411 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0219 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Feb (LATIN)--The government today decreed a state of emergency for all of the country's police organizations and the reinforcement of security at the banks in order to halt the wave of bank robberies in which leftist guerrilla groups are involved.

Two robberies yesterday morning, during which $600,000 were taken, prompted an urgent meeting of the National Police Council called by the Interior and Justice ministries.

A police spokesman quoted today by EL NACIONAL noted that uniforms and handgrenades were usually used in the various robberies. He also said that persons linked with extreme left groups could be involved.

The purpose of the robberies is to obtain funds to carry out various activities during the coming months and to maintain logistical support for the irregular groups which still sporadically continue to appear in the eastern part of the country, he added.

EDUCATION MINISTRY EMPLOYEES GO ON STRIKE

PA022020 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1618 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 2 Feb (LATIN)--The Education Ministry's nonteaching staff of 45,000 started a nationwide strike today which will extend until Tuesday. Meanwhile, university students are occupying various institutes and Venezuelan education is experiencing other problems.

The Federation of Workers of Educational Institutes of Venezuela [FETRAEDUCACIONALES], which has 22 affiliated unions, is demanding that the Education Ministry comply with the collective work contract. Authorities have promised to pay them on 15 February. Jose Angel Molina Pereira, president of FETRAEDUCACIONALES, said today that the strike is not our fault. It is the result of the ministry's negligence. There is money but it is not being handed out.

In the meantime, the Association of Resident Physicians and the interunion front of the Caracas University Hospital are meeting at noon today to study the adoption of forceful measures in view of the crisis in the hospital and charges of administrative irregularities.

The students of Simon Bolivar University on the coast, about 60 km northeast of Caracas, have occupied the university in protest of academic irregularities. University Rector Jose Roberto Bello said the student activists were agitators.

In Carupano, 700 km east of here, the students of the university college [as received] were in their 5th day of their occupation of the university in protest of the appointment of Oscar Tineo as director. The professors have joined the protest, disputing the appointment of their colleague.

In Caracas last night students evicted authorities and proceeded to occupy the school of law of the central university while the dean, Pedro Niken, suspended classes. The preregistered students of the law school are protesting the lack of student quotas, a problem which has periodically sparked conflicts in Venezuelan universities.

In several parts of the country the press has exposed the deterioration of school buildings, a shortage of teachers and materials and unsanitary conditions which seem to reflect a crisis in the educational system.

SOVEREIGNTY OVER RESOURCES TO BE UPHELD DURING CARTER VISIT

PA031627 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] During President Carter's upcoming visit to Mexico, the Mexican Government will uphold its right to dispose of its natural resources as suits its development and economic independence, Foreign Secretariat spokesman Feliciano Guerra (Sadillas) said in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, today. In this way, he said, President Lopez-Portillo's administration will be exercising its full sovereignty on the basis of the principles that guide its foreign policy.

During a lecture he gave before the Nuevo Laredo Bar Association tonight, the Foreign Secretariat spokesman noted that modern history is written with oil. Powers of all leanings, Guerra (Sadillas) said, covet this vital, nonrenewable element, extracted within the context of the sovereignty of the Mexican people. According to what the president has said, he noted that energy and food are considered priority development areas.

Ten days before President Carter's arrival in Mexico, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat spokesman said that President Lopez-Portillo's administration is trying to avoid a wall of misunderstanding with the powerful neighbor, but with attention to dignity, decorum and patriotism. He also noted that Mexico understands friendship as something that should be based on respect for the dignity and sovereign equality of the states by both parties.

Guerra (Sadillas) admitted, however, that Mexico is aware of the difficulty involved in having 3,000 km of common border with the most powerful nation in the modern world, the United States.

OPPOSITION PLANS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CARTER VISIT

PA030258 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0033 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Feb (EFE)--Various organizations today called for the formation of a "broad alliance" to confront the "pressures of imperialism against Mexico," in view of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's forthcoming visit. In a paid newspaper advertisement, labor, political, student and civic organizations expressed their opposition to the massive export of fuels and demanded that Mexico join OPEC.

The manifesto proposes a "national alternative program," which would include the drafting of a "national energy plan" to prevent the unlimited export of fuels and promote the development of domestic industry. The program also includes eliminating the transfer of profits from government corporations to private corporations, especially foreign ones, and the creation of a nuclear industry based on natural uranium reactors. It also demands respect for the rights of Mexican migratory workers in the United States and the diversification of foreign markets as well as state control of foreign trade.

The manifesto further demands the nationalization of the secondary petrochemical industry and the food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. The document calls for a demonstration on Wednesday to express support for this program and to protest Carter's visit. The U.S. President will visit Mexico from 14 to 16 February.

TRADE RETURNING TO NORMAL IN AREA NEAR COSTA RICAN BORDER

PA030415 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Border trade between Panama and Costa Rica today began returning to normal in Paso Canoa when the two countries withdrew their custom agents who had been blocking commercial activities in the area.

COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR DENIES CONFISCATION OF GOODS

PA020043 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Feb 79 p 1 PA

[Undated communique issued by Costa Rica's ambassador to Panama]

[Text] Regarding reports broadcast over television and radio yesterday to the effect that merchandise purchased in Panama had been confiscated from individuals at the Costa Rican border, I am obliged to state the following:

I spoke by telephone with the Costa Rican customs director, who told me emphatically that no order to this effect had been issued and that any employee who, on his own account and at his own risk, had taken action against any individual of any nationality would be duly punished. The above explanation is definitive and I offer it because I believe that actions such as those that have been reported could hinder the admirable and solid relations which exist between Costa Rica and Panama and that far from [desiring] any such hindrance, the two countries and governments daily demonstrate greater solidarity, understanding and mutual cooperation.

TORRIJOS, GOVERNMENT FIGURES ATTEND CUBAN EMBASSY RECEPTION

PA021950 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Panamanian political, economic and cultural figures have attended the reception that the Cuban Embassy in Panama held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. Those figures included isthmian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores and Eligio Salas and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, advisers to Panamanian President Aristides Royo and National Guard Chief Gen Omar Torrijos, respectively.

ANTICOMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION DISPERSED IN COLON

PA040303 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] A short time ago in Colon a demonstration protesting Soviet and Cuban communism was broken up by shots and rock-throwing. The demonstrators, very few in fact, had gathered at the "5 de Noviembre" park, where they denounced what they consider to be evidence of communist intervention in Panama. Once the speeches concluded, the demonstrators decided to march through Colon streets but they were attacked by alleged leftists. Guardsmen dressed in civilian clothes tried to prevent the clashes. Shots were then heard around 5th Street. The situation worsened at 11th Street and Central Avenue, and the groups broke up to seek refuge in nearby homes. No casualties have been reported.

PANAMA CANAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION SWORN IN 1 FEBRUARY

PA020421 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The Panama Canal Affairs Commission was installed this afternoon. This commission is under the National Legislative Council.

The ceremony took place in the Blue Room of the Justo Arosemena Palace. Present for the occasion were advisers of the canal authority, including Edwin Fabrega.

The commission was installed and sworn in by the acting president of the legislative assembly, Blas Celis. Legislator Carlos Barsallo and canal authority advisers Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez and Ricardo Alonso Rodriguez spoke at the ceremony. All the speakers noted the importance of the canal affairs commission at this moment when Panama and the United States are implementing the documents to transfer assets to our country in accord with the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The commission is composed of legislators Jaime Melamed, Magdalana de Duran, Serafin Palacio and Ricardo Barsallo, who presides over it. According to the National Legislative Council's rules the commission will be in charge of preparing all the documents necessary for the training of personnel and the preparation of the entities that will manage the assets which will revert to Panama on the stipulated deadlines.

DIRECTOR OF CANAL PORTS-RAILROADS DIVISION APPOINTED

PA031400 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Gabriel Lewis Galindo, director general of the Panama Canal Authority, has announced the appointment of Eduardo Shafer as director of the Division of Ports, Railroads and Marine Supplies as of 1 October 1979.

Mr Shafer has a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Florida with a major in finance. At the time of his appointment, Mr Shafer was director of commerce for the Bayano State cement enterprise. His experience in public administration includes several posts in the Panama Canal Company Division of Terminals. He was also official adjudicator in the Office of the Director of Finance of the Panama Canal Company.

CNTP DENOUNCES NONPARTICIPATION IN CANAL COMMISSIONS' WORK

PA011554 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 31 Jan 79 pp 1, 18 PA

[Article by Mario Martinez]

[Text] The new commissions appointed to advise the canal authority regarding Panama's role in what is today called the Canal Zone have been ignored.

Domingo Barria, international relations secretary of the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP] and a member of the labor subcommission on the entry into the canal, has sent a complaint to this effect to President Aristides Royo.

"We were invited by the national government to participate in the subcommissions which were to advise the canal authority on the preparation of our country's entry into the canal.... After 6 months from that historic date, these advisory subcommissions have not been accorded any participation."

Among other things, Barria refers to the nonparticipation of his "fellow labor representatives who are not even asked to attend the commissions' meetings."

The union leader says that private enterprise representatives on these commissions have protested the presence of labor representatives, "as occurred in regard to the basin and environmental subcommission in which labor representative Norma de Jaen's presence" is disputed.

In his protest to the president, Barria maintains that some "technicians" openly express their aversion to the labor representatives, arguing that they "have nothing to do with this type of commission."

In a direct attack on private enterprise, labor leader Domingo Barria asserts that canal properties are already being distributed so that they can be managed and administrated by private enterprise.

After this serious charge Barria informs President Royo of the feelings of CNTP workers.

"We workers cannot permit private enterprise to take over the service properties existing in the Canal Zone...." He then asks about the future of the canal enterprises. "What is going to be done with them? This should be discussed with the workers ...and not with the businessmen, who never made a move to have the Canal Zone turned over to Panama." Barria concludes: "Those who never threw a stone for the canal to be ours are today the beneficiaries of our people's sacrifice."

SABOTAGE SUSPECTED AT CHIRIQUI OIL TERMINAL

PA311416 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 31 Jan 79 p 1 PA

[Excerpts] Officials of Tellepsen Pan-American Company, in charge of constructing the crude oil transshipment terminal at Puerto Armuelles, Chiriqui, yesterday charged that the project was being sabotaged "by yet unidentified persons."

Discovered by company inspectors were several man-made perforations along the oil pipeline system, and welding bars in pipeline couplings, a spokesman for the contractors disclosed.

Although Tellepsen Pan-American Company officials would not elaborate on possible suspects, the general consensus was that it could be the work of members of the construction workers union, which goes under the Spanish acronym of SUNTRACS.

The union has declared three strikes at the construction site since last September, all of which were declared illegal by the labor courts.

Rumors now prevalent indicate that the group now plans a fourth strike with demands that the construction company will be unable to meet.

Tellepsen General Manager Donald L. Morgan yesterday said that despite the repeated setbacks caused by SUNTRACS, it is his company's intention to go ahead with the project at Puerto Armuelles and others planned elsewhere in Panama.

"For this to be accomplished we shall need the help of everyone. It is our sincere hope that the labor union will understand this so that we may go ahead with work in favor of the nation's progress," he said.

Morgan said that the illegal strikes at the oil terminal have not only seriously affected the project, but the government as well "since they are eager to have the project completed within the specified time to begin the transfer of oil operations as early as possible."

The contractors hinted that it was time President Aristides Royo took a personal stand on the issue "since further delays in construction means added losses to the government."

COSTA RICA

CARAZO OPPOSES NICARAGUA RELATIONS UNTIL SOMOZA LEAVES

PA040106 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 30 Jan 79 p 2 PA

[By Edgar Espinoza]

[Text] Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio has said that the Costa Rican Government will not have diplomatic relations with the Nicaraguan Government as long as Gen Anastasio Somoza is in power.

"I hope that the situation will improve, but as long as the relations between the two peoples are not affected, what does it matter if the governments do not have them," emphasized Carazo. He added: "We are in the OAS and we have demonstrated that our differences can be solved within that organization, without having any direct diplomatic relations."

President Carazo believes that Costa Rica's problem with Nicaragua has in no way affected his government program. It has not even interrupted the paving of the inter-American highway to the northern border.

However, he conceded that the situation has forced the government to incur some unprogrammed expenses, "but they are not very large," he said.

"I have limited the interest in the problem solely to the Cabinet issue. Each Cabinet minister and each executive president has continued working on his own job. We have not fallen into a Nicaraguan psychosis at any time. On the contrary, we have coexisted with that country--I imagine--as other governments have in the past."

"There are those who say that we were too hasty and that we should not have interrupted our relations with Nicaragua. As ruler, I cannot have relations with a government whose officials murder Costa Ricans."

He added: "That was what happened on 21 November 1978. The vile murder of Costa Rican peasants who were guarding Costa Rica's neutrality. That prevents us from having relations with that country. If that seems hasty, I feel that it is hastiness 2 months after the fact."

In his judgment, Costa Rica's world prestige has grown. "We have won four diplomatic victories which no one ever imagined could happen so quickly."

He recalled that the OAS Permanent Council voted 19 in favor, with 2 abstentions and 2 not participating, to condemn Nicaragua. The United Nations approved the Costa Rican proposal by an overwhelming majority. Only Paraguay voted against Costa Rica and sided with Nicaragua.

Subsequently, the inter-American reciprocal assistance organ approved by consensus Costa Rica's position and favorably resolved our request to send a civilian commission to supervise the border.

The president said that "he have been able to tell the world that we have the right to live in peace and without an army. We have resorted to the international organizations with great respect but with firmness."

He recalled his statements at the beginning of the discussions in the OAS, to the effect that if Nicaragua's argument prevailed, Costa Rica has no reason to be there. "Nevertheless, at this time I salute the objectivity which has prevailed in the OAS with respect to the analysis of the relations between the two countries."

He believes that Costa Rica's prestige has increased "and this makes us feel very, very satisfied," he said. He emphasized the large number of letters received from heads of state throughout the world in support of Costa Rica. "Many heads of state from countries such as France, Spain, Italy and others have expressed their solidarity with our worries and difficulties."

He described the relations with the other Central American governments as "harmonious." Carazo said that he has frequent contacts with the presidents of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

He described as a great diplomatic victory the OAS establishment of the inter-American human rights court by consensus. The court will begin operating here on 1 July 1979. Contrary to his campaign promise, President Carazo has increased the number of embassies abroad, for which he has been criticized. In this respect, the president said that "we have reduced the embassies considerably. We left offices in some places where it was impossible to reduce them, but not at the level of embassies."

"The only change we have made is to appoint an ambassador to the Soviet Union, which was imperative after the United Nations approved the establishment of a university for peace."

He announced that his government may also be obliged--and is very seriously considering it--to have an ambassador in Colombia, "because our original decision did not take into consideration that country's active participation in Costa Rica in a plan to support coffee prices."

"Therefore, it is one thing to abuse the number of embassies and quite another to accept the needs at a given moment for the benefit of the country which a circumstantial change can demand of a formal government decision. This should not be interpreted as a change of attitude but as an exception to the general rule."

"We said that t number of embassies would be decreased because we would maintain contact with the countries through the United Nations. That is why we have opened relations with many countries. However, some people do not understand this. It is one thing to have relations with countries and another to establish embassies."

"Establishing relations with Nigeria does not mean opening an embassy. We are waging one of the most interesting struggles which Costa Rica could have had with that country. It consists of the coordination and distribution of satellite utilization and the elimination of a potential imperialistic action by large nations to the detriment of our country."

The president emphasized that "together with Nigeria and other African countries we will propose in Geneva in August and September of this year that all satellites cannot remain under the control of the United States or Russia and, in general, under the control of strong communications companies to our detriment."

"I believe that we are defending the idea that television can become an instrument for all small countries and not just for three or four. I have people working on this and hope to be able to wage this struggle for the benefit of the freedom of thought in Costa Rica."

"That is why we have established relations, not an embassy, with Nigeria. That is why we have established relations, not an embassy, with Egypt. We have maintained a firm policy of austerity and the fact that we have one additional embassy cannot be held against us as a change in the government's position."

During the interview, the president discussed other government matters. He is pleased with the accomplishments during his first 8 months in office. "I do not know whether I will attain all my goals, but I will undoubtedly attain the majority."

"There is one very specific matter in this respect and I do not want this to sound pedantic because nothing is further from the truth: 1 month ago everyone was talking about devaluation in Costa Rica and today no one mentions it."

CALDERON AIRS VIEWS ON NICARAGUA, VISIT WITH POPE

PA022157 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Press conference with Foreign Affairs Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier held on 2 February; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Calderon] On Wednesday at about 0800 Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdes, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Cesar Quintana, Salvadoran Justice Minister Rafael Florez y Florez and I, in my role as Costa Rican foreign minister, had the honor and pleasure of being received by His Holiness John Paul II in an audience lasting approximately 17 minutes. Each one conveyed to him the greetings of the government and people we represented and [word indistinct] (?feeling) of Central American unity as the geographical area closest to Mexico City, Republic of Mexico, where the pope spent 5 days. We also emphasized to him that Central America wanted to have the pope in Central America; that Costa Rica would feel proud and was asking His Holiness John Paul II to visit; and that President Rodrigo Carazo had invited him to come to Costa Rica several months ago. The pope gave us much hope that on his next visit to Latin America he would consider visiting Costa Rica.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, what can you tell us about the event in Guatemala City, the decoration given to you and to President Carazo and the probability that the chief of state will visit that nation shortly?

[Answer] In effect, the Guatemalan Government communicated to President Carazo its wish to decorate him. At the same time, I was honored with the Order of the Quetzal With Great Cross. I had the opportunity at that time to visit Guatemala because I traveled from Mexico together with the foreign minister. We had the opportunity on Wednesday night to be honored by the Guatemalan Government before the diplomatic corps accredited to that sister nation. During the next few months when Guatemalan President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas will visit Costa Rica, or perhaps during the visit that Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo will make this year to Guatemala, the Guatemalan Government will officially decorate the president of the republic.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, regarding the airlift between Cuba and Costa Rica for the release of political prisoners, has the government received any official response from the Cuban Government?

[Answer] Well, the Costa Rican Government does not have to receive any official response from the Cuban Government. Since the Costa Rican Government has no diplomatic relations with the island of Cuba we have made no diplomatic effort. What has been done is to allow Cuban prisoners to enter our national territory. That is our part: to permit the entry into Costa Rica. It now behooves the Cuban Government, based on efforts made by the political prisoners and their families, to grant them the respective safe-conduct to leave Cuba.

[Question] Mr Minister, are there any prospects following the contact with the Central American foreign ministers for resumption of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua?

[Answer] The president of the republic has stated very clearly that diplomatic relations with Nicaragua will not be resumed at this time. What we did discuss was the need, the urgent need, for Nicaragua to stop violating our territory and to stop making incursions by its armed forces into our territory.

CARAZO TO ATTEND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

PA031829 Paris AFP in Spanish 1712 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (AFP)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo has accepted Venezuelan President-elect Luis Herrera Campins' invitation to attend his inauguration on 12 March. The Costa Rican delegation to the presidential inauguration will be made up of President Carazo and his wife, Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon, Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria and Rafael Angel Grillo, chief of the government's legislative bloc and president of the Costa Rican Christian Democrats. The delegation will leave for Venezuela on 9 March and will return on 14 March.

NO CUBAN REPLY TO PROPOSAL ON PRISONER RELEASE

PA041444 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 4 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has not received any reply from the Fidel Castro government regarding the release of (?138) political prisoners and their departure from the island to countries where they have relatives. According to official information, the government here has not received any notification from the Cuban Government about the proposal.

Minister of the Presidency Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri has said that it is believed that Castro is releasing some, but not all, prisoners so it is very unlikely that all 138 political prisoners will be released from the Cuban jails where they have been held for many years. Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has indicated that Costa Rica is willing to send an airplane to Havana to pick up the prisoners once the Cuban Government announces that they have been released.

'SECRET PACT' AGAINST COSTA RICA REPORTED

PA031840 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 3 Feb (AFP)--The newspaper LA REPUBLICA here today charged that a secret pact against Costa Rica exists among the rest of the Central American countries. The newspaper's allegation is based on reports from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where the Honduran and Guatemalan presidents met unexpectedly yesterday. The subjects they discussed have not been disclosed, although it has been learned that they referred to the repercussions of the Nicaraguan political crisis in the region.

NICARAGUAN GUARDSMEN REPORTEDLY FIRE ON PEASANTS

PA021349 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Reports obtained in Santa Cecilia de la Cruz, Guanacaste, say that at 1400 yesterday a large number of Nicaraguan guardsmen fired on peasants who were picking beans in La Virgen. Therefore, the peasants left the area and are now at the school in Santa Cecilia.

In turn, reports by residents of Santa Cecilia, Guanacaste, say that area peasants have had to stop farming because the Nicaraguan guard threatens them by firing machineguns. They were unable to harvest their beans yesterday because their lives were in danger. Station correspondent Juan Rafael Guevara said that a Nicaraguan military plane was overflying La Virgen, Santa Cecilia yesterday but this is a daily occurrence.

CIVIL GUARDSMEN TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN VENEZUELA

PA031422 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Early today 25 Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen will leave for Venezuela to receive military training, Costa Rican Vice Minister of Security Enrique Montealegre Martin has disclosed. The vice minister made the announcement shortly after returning from Venezuela, where he had gone this week to iron out details of police courses for Costa Ricans.

EL SALVADOR

PLEASURE WITH BORDER NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESS EXPRESSED

PA050135 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Jan 79 p 7 PA

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Rodriguez Porth returned to his country yesterday, pleased with the progress made in the seventh round of negotiations to solve the Honduran-Salvadoran border dispute which ended in Lima under the mediation of Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero.

The Salvadoran foreign minister said that positive steps have been taken on the problem and that everything seems to indicate that a definite agreement will be found for the dispute between the two countries.

However, he emphasized that negotiations are continuing between the Honduran and Salvadoran foreign ministries until a positive solution is found on the official demarcation of 418 square kms of border area which are in dispute.

He said that "with the mediation of Peruvian jurist Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, appointed by the OAS, we are certain that the objective will be attained."

During a news conference held before returning home, the foreign minister reaffirmed that the Peruvian mediator will visit Honduras and El Salvador on 19 February to obtain additional information on the problem. He said that on this occasion Bustamante y Rivero will pay a special visit to several border points to collect substantial information to help in providing a positive solution to the border problem. The Salvadoran foreign minister rejected a news dispatch that reported his country had been accused of possible incidents of human rights violations.

FIVE LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED BEFORE ATTEMPTED BUS STRIKE

PA021718 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2211 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Five labor leaders were arrested at noon today when drivers of an urban bus firm were about to declare a strike to demand a collective agreement.

Ricardo Martinez, secretary general of the Unified Confederation of Salvadoran Workers [Confederacion Unitaria de Trabajadores Salvadorenos--CUTS], told ACAN-EFE that national policemen dispersed a group of workers and union members who had gathered at the entrance to the Ivu suburb in the capital's southern sector.

Martinez noted that those arrested are Maximiliano Castro Navas, Enecon Tejada, Jose Maria Calderon, Orlando Torres and Pedro Marquez. Four of the workers are members of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation and one of them is a CUTS member.

The strike would have stopped bus service along Route No 5 of Empresa de Autobuses, S.A.

NATIONAL GUARD GENERAL DIRECTOR URGES CALM

PA021455 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2236 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Subversion and sedition are not the way to the progress and welfare which the country needs to promote, National Guard General Director Col Jose Antonio Corleto said today, Thursday.

He made this statement regarding today's attacks by the Revolutionary People's Army that have caused at least 16 deaths.

Colonel Corleto said that the National Guard General Directorate deems it its duty to remind the citizenry that this subversive violence by terrorists and their covert accomplices merely leads to more unnecessary bloodshed and mourning for Salvadoran families. He said that this is why the National Guard urges all Salvadorans, particularly parents and youths, to let these lamentable incidents make us think things over and lead us to assume constructive attitudes for the sake of peace.

Colonel Corleto confirmed that seven guardsmen died in San Miguel and eight were injured in San Salvador.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT LUCAS GARCIA LEAVES ON VISIT TO HONDURAS

PA021720 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1546 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan President Gen Romero Lucas Garcia left for Tegucigalpa, Honduras, today to meet with Chief of Government Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia. The trip took Guatemalans by surprise because no previous announcement of it had been made here.

Before leaving for the Honduran capital, President Lucas Garcia told ACAN-EFE that the objective of his visit is "to meet his counterpart, Paz Garcia, personally."

The Guatemalan Government leader added that he will meet with members of the ruling Honduran military junta in order to discuss the current Central American situation.

This is General Lucas Garcia's first official trip since he took office last July. According to what the Guatemalan president said, he will return to Guatemala today and leave for New Orleans next Tuesday on a 20-day tour of North America. General Lucas Garcia added that toward the end of February he will visit San Jose, Costa Rica, at the invitation of President Rodrigo Carazo.

COSTA RICA'S ALFARO ARRIVES FOR COMMON MARKET SPEECH

PA022205 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1610 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro arrived in Guatemala today. Alfaro arrived at La Aurora airport at 0900 and was greeted by Guatemalan President [as received] Francisco Villagran Kramer.

Alfaro said that he came at the invitation of the Guatemalan Chamber of Industries. He will speak about the Costa Rican position within the Central American Common Market during a chamber meeting which will be held at noon today. He added that during his stay in Guatemala City he will meet with his Guatemalan counterpart Villagran Kramer, who is an old friend of his, and discuss the problems which Central America is currently facing.

Chamber of Industries Lecture

PA031453 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rica will not withdraw from the Central American Common Market, said Costa Rican Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro yesterday. The vice president, who was on an 8-hour visit to Guatemala, said that his administration on the other hand has undertaken efforts to contribute to helping the regional integration process out of its present crisis.

Alfaro went to Guatemala to give a lecture to the Assembly General of the Chamber of Industries and to meet with his Guatemalan counterpart, Francisco Villagran Kramer.

In speaking to the Guatemalan industrialists, the Costa Rican vice president warned that the Common Market will deteriorate even more if an effort is not made to save it by adopting necessary measures to help all of Central America.

HONDURAS

LIBERALS CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTING ELECTORAL PROCESS

PA021946 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1556 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Liberal Party was accused yesterday at a National Party convention of obstructing the electoral process and setting the scene for a coup against the present military government junta.

Both parties are conservative and termed "traditional" here in light of the new political and ideological sectors which are seeking recognition and registration in order to run in the 1980 elections called by the militarymen who have been running the country since 1972.

The National Party convention deliberated for 12 hours yesterday and based its accusations against the Liberals on the argument that "the Liberal Party does not think it can win the 1980 elections."

In turn, the Nationalists have been accused by the Liberals of being in collusion with a sector of the army, specifically the one in power at present, to commit fraud in the electoral process.

The Liberals claim that the fraud is being plotted in the electoral tribunals, where the Nationalists are in the majority by virtue of several maneuvers which included preventing new parties from registering.

The fraud charged by the Liberals is reportedly also being carried out through the municipal governments, which are not elected but appointed by the military, with municipal posts being held by the Nationalists.

The Liberals claim that their party members meet with many obstacles in trying to obtain birth certificates and cards testifying that they have been counted in the census so that they can vote.

The National Party convention members denied all the Liberals' charges, stating that "there is no collusion with the armed forces. What is happening is that the Liberals are afraid of our organization and discipline. We, too, have met with obstacles in obtaining the documents necessary for our people."

National Party coordinator Ricardo Zuniga Agustinus said that all the Liberals' charges are verbal, without any proof, and so must be termed "slander."

The strongman of the Honduran National Party also criticized the newspapers which have published the Liberals' accusations even though they have limited themselves to publishing official Liberal Party communiques.

He said: "There is a political fanaticism in liberalism which prevents the party from advancing, renewing itself and seeking revolutionary government programs as the National Party does."

The convention members drew up the strategy to be followed in regard to liberalism in the 1980 elections and the remaining portion of the preelectoral period but it was not revealed as it was drafted in a private session.

HONDURAN-GUATEMALAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MEETING

PA030330 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0102 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Agriculture, the need for reforestation and the reorganization of the Central American Common Market were some of the subjects discussed this Friday afternoon by the rulers of Guatemala and Honduras, according to a brief communique signed by Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez of Guatemala and Roberto Palma Galvez of Honduras.

The communique states that the foreign ministers are pleased to inform the people of Guatemala and Honduras that Brig Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and Brig Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, president of Guatemala and president of the Honduran military government junta respectively, held a meeting in Tegucigalpa this afternoon." It adds that "in a climate of fraternity and cordiality, they discussed the need to maintain personal contacts to deal with matters of interest to both countries which promote the development of their respective peoples."

It also states that Lucas Garcia's visit was made for the purpose of reaffirming and broadening the traditional bonds of brotherhood between Guatemala and Honduras. The communique makes no reference whatsoever to political and military subjects, but it is generally believed that these subjects as well as some regional problems were discussed by the rulers.

The strict security measures adopted here, which made broader journalistic coverage of the visit of a neighboring country's chief of state very difficult, were bitterly criticized here.

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL GUARD CHIEF ON ATTACKS FROM COSTA RICA

PA031730 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1302 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Feb (LATIN)--National Guard Chief of Staff Maj Gen Armando Fernandez told LATIN tonight that during a visit he made to the Costa Rican border along with other members of the staff he confirmed that "heavy weapons are being fired at Nicaraguan territory from Costa Rican territory." He said that those attacks are occurring "with the tolerance of the Costa Rican authorities since the aggressors, members of the so-called international brigade, have vehicles to withdraw and make contact with other vehicles which use Costa Rican roads to go to San Jose to obtain ammunition."

He indicated that the OAS observers who are in Nicaraguan territory "were able to confirm that the fire from .50-caliber machineguns and 60-mm mortars came from Costa Rican territory."

Fernandez reported that a Nicaraguan patrol "was harassed by .50-caliber machinegun and mortar fire coming from Costa Rican territory in the area of La Pimienta stream and the Icabalceta River."

"Shortly afterward," he added, "the Nicaraguan border post of Penas Blancas on the inter-American highway was attacked with the same type of weapons, endangering the lives of travelers, many of them Costa Rican."

The Nicaraguan National Guard staff chief also reported that the roof of the Nicaraguan Customs House was damaged by several mortar shells. He said that others fell on the rear section of the "Tienda Libre" building.

He explained that, considering the trajectory of the shots and bearing in mind the range of the weapons, "it is deduced that they were fired from 1,500 to 1,900 meters inside Costa Rican territory."

He added that the attackers, whom he called "members of the international communist brigade," use vehicles to mobilize themselves and to make contact with other vehicles that go to San Jose for ammunition. He said all of this evidently occurs with the tolerance and compliance of the authorities of the neighboring country.

He said that "this new phase of aggression has been taking place since 31 January when heavy weapons were fired from the San Vicente Ranch in Costa Rica at a Nicaraguan patrol on the Osari Ranch in Nicaragua." "The attack was repeated on 1 February in the same region," he added.

He also reported that the graves of two Nicaraguan justices of the peace and a son of one of them were found in Nicaraguan territory some 200 meters from the border.

The three men had been "captured" in Nicaraguan territory by guerrillas on 15 January. "After killing them, the guerrillas fled to Costa Rican territory. One of those killed left a widow and 9 children; the other a widow and 12 children," he added. "The National Guard," Fernandez said, "remains alert in case those individuals enter our territory and can be brought to account for their actions. Meanwhile, it continues to patiently bear the mortar and machinegun fire from Costa Rican territory. I can report that it is so well trained for these emergencies that it has not sustained any casualties in the attacks since 31 January."

FSLN COMMANDER HUGO TORRES VOWS TO 'CONTINUE FIGHTING'

PA031715 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

["Interview" with Sandinist National Liberation Front Commander Uno, Hugo Torres; "somewhere in Nicaragua"--recorded, date not given]

[Text] On the one hand, we can say that from the September insurrectionist offensive, the heroic days of September, the prospects and accomplishments of the revolutionary movement look very good. The revolutionary situation since September has been characterized by the increased number of militants in our organization, the increased number of fighters, increased popular militia membership, increased organizational, political and military preparation of our cadres, militants and the people in general fighting against the dictatorship. That is to say, the revolutionary movement in our country has grown considerably. The September achievements are quite evident. The strengthening of the revolutionary movement is manifest in every sense. Apart from that, there is a very important matter: Starting in September there has been more clear, incontrovertible evidence of the political hegemony of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] at the head of the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement. There is a solidification and strengthening of the FSLN as the true vanguard of this heroic people.

There is also another very important question. At this time the strengthening of the left--of the entire revolutionary movement, the entire anti-Somozist movement--is also beginning to become evident. Also, actions are now being carried out and planned in a more coordinated manner. On the side of the bourgeoisie the situation is entirely different. The bourgeoisie is very weak. This is precisely because of opportunism and capitulation seen chiefly--to be specific--since September and the famous mediation. Little by little the people are understanding the true character of the struggle, its class nature and the real intentions of certain politicians who at this time are still misled, thinking they can continue to fool the people with their demagogery, rhetoric and lies. They think that the people do not have sufficient maturity to know the objectives of the struggle and why such a high price has been paid in blood and suffering. The bourgeoisie (?continues to be) extremely weak. The weakening of the regime is also evidenced in political and even in military spheres. This political and military crisis is part of an irreversible economic crisis.

Imperialism, by having lost the opportunity to carry out its maneuvers to neutralize the revolutionary movement, do away with the dictatorship and establish a less fascist government which would be more in line with the future interests of imperialism, is also in a difficult situation. Imperialists at this time are still trying to advance their plan to scare Somoza, to leave us the famous Somozism without Somoza, trying to create in the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] a political alternative to guarantee imperialist interests and the continuity of imperialism in the political, military and cultural scenes of our country. This is something which at this point has become extremely difficult. The FAO, as we well know, as everyone knows, does not have the least support, not the least support, so the only thing left is the backing of the imperialists.

The main problem both for the dictatorship and imperialism is the revolutionary movement with the FSLN as its head. For many years, especially this past year, our people have been acquiring more maturity, more awareness that the nature of our struggle is not only to get rid of the tyrant and his family, but also to destroy the entire apparatus of domination and oppression of the dictatorship as a direct representative of imperialism in our country. In this destruction of the apparatus of domination the first aim is the destruction of the National Guard as the main element of that repression. So long as that apparatus exists, so long as the National Guard exists, our people will not set down their arms, our people will not give up; we will continue fighting.

SANDINISTS REPORTEDLY STAGE NEW ATTACKS

PA030001 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2039 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--New actions by Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] groups against the Nicaraguan Army stationed along the southern border were reported in Managua today. Brief military reports stated that the Sandinist fighters used mortars and .50-caliber machineguns in the resumption of hostilities against the soldiers guarding the country's southern border.

The guerrilla attacks from the Costa Rican side occurred this morning in La Pimienta, Cabalceta and Penas Blancas, according to local reports. No dead or wounded were reported as a result of these hostilities, nor did they affect the free movement on the Costa Rican border. However, the tension along the border area motivated a meeting "at the General Staff level" in the small but well-fortified command post of Sapoa, close to the border. Other sources said that the Nicaraguan authorities had located an abandoned guerrilla camp in which military patrols found the bodies of three persons who have not been officially identified.

Meanwhile, in Managua military patrols were inspecting vehicles on the access highways to the city in search of presumed Sandinists who robbed an arms store this morning. People's groups calling themselves "Sergio Sanchez" and "Francisco Vado" escaped with 10,000 rounds of .30-caliber and 5,000 rounds of .22-caliber ammunition, 1 .22-caliber pistol, a .38-caliber revolver and 1 typewriter.

At the same time it was learned that the self-styled "Ulises Rodriguez" people's group took credit for an attack in which National Guard officer Lt Victoriano Larios was killed in Managua's "Schick" district last night. Larios was stripped of his regulation weapon and the ammunition which he carried. In addition, informed local sources said that 2d Lt Evert Escobar Guillen was today trying to determine why his superiors dismissed him from the National Guard. Escobar Guillen completed his military studies at the Nicaraguan Military Academy in July 1977 and today found himself out of the army without knowing the reasons.

NATIONAL GUARD REPORTS KILLING FIVE SANDINISTS

PA040335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2243 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Feb 79 (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported today that the Nicaraguan Armed Forces loyal to Gen Anastasio Somoza killed five members of a Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] column in another armed clash in western Nicaragua. A military communique issued by the National Guard's Information Office said that the fight between the National Guard and the FSLN group occurred on Thursday morning in the district of San Jose, near the town of El Sauce.

The military report said that the five deed rebels were part of a guerrilla column which on 10 January occupied the gypsum deposits in Santa Rosa del Penon, destroyed its installations, blew up the explosives shed and killed Reinaldo Rico, manager of the mine.

Ever since that operation, military patrols had pursued the insurgents, making contact several times. The latest officially reported contact occurred yesterday. According to the communique, the group managed to flee. The patrols seized arms and ammunition from the guerrillas. The National Guard suffered no casualties, according to the National Guard's Legal and Public Relations Office.

FIVE REPORTED KILLED IN 'BURGEONING' VIOLENCE

PA022012 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua--At least five persons, including a guardsman, died last night in the burgeoning violence in Nicaragua. At the same time the opposition formed another organization called the National Patriotic Front in order to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza's government.

The authorities said that the five persons died during two attacks staged in Managua last night by alleged members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. A National Guard spokesman said that during an attack on a restaurant in northern Managua, a guardsman was killed when he tried to prevent the attack. Two other persons died at the same place. However, customers in the restaurant said that apparently the intention of the attack was to kill the guardsman.

Two other persons later died in similar circumstances at the hands of alleged Sandinist guerrillas, the authorities reported. Meanwhile, in Leon, 90 km west of Managua, a demonstration by university students who intended to march to the capital to support a demand for an increase in the budget of the national university was dispersed by the National Guard. This action resulted in several youths being injured and others being placed under arrest, a student source said.

COMMANDER CERO'S BROTHER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN MANAGUA

PA031857 Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here today that one person was killed and two were wounded in an armed clash in which a younger brother of Sandinist chief Eden Pastora, known as Commander Cero, was also seriously wounded.

In a continuation of the wave of violence that has affected Nicaragua for the past 16 months, Felix Pedro Pastora, 38, was hospitalized today with gunshot wounds in the chest following a confusing incident in southeast Managua. Doctors described his condition as critical. According to press reports, Pastora exchanged shots with a group of armed men who invaded his house. Pastora's wife was also wounded in the shooting. One of the assailants, identified as 17-year-old Ricardo Lopez Galeano, was killed. At least one of the attackers was also wounded.

Approximately 70 persons have died since January in various parts of the country during clashes between Sandinists and government supporters in a bloody wave of political vengeance. Meanwhile, unconfirmed press reports indicate that army patrols today were combatting rebel groups in various areas of the city of El Sauce, 150 km west of Managua.

OAS OBSERVERS EXAMINING SITE OF LATEST FSLN ATTACK

PA031418 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The civilian OAS observers posted on the Nicaraguan border have ascertained that a new guerrilla operation was staged against Nicaraguan military posts yesterday morning.

Led by the diplomat from Grenada, Mr Redhead, the inter-American officials received reports from Nicaraguan National Guardsmen patrolling the border with Costa Rica and inspected the .35-caliber machinegun bullet holes in the immigration and customs offices on the Nicaraguan side of Penas Blancas.

SANDINISTS REPORTEDLY HOLD UP SUPERMARKET IN MANAGUA

PA031448 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] At nightfall yesterday armed men, reportedly Sandinists, carried out two extremist operations in the Ciudad Jardin commercial center in Managua. Three armed young men with their faces covered held up La Colonia Supermarket. In about 20 minutes they seized the money in the six cash registers of the supermarket, which is located about 200 meters from the ACAN-EFE news agency office. The exact amount of money they stole is not known.

6 HOLDUPS REPORTED IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS

PA031922 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Six new holdups have been reported to the police in Managua in less than 24 hours. Stores, gasoline stations, watchmen and taxi drivers are the usual victims of armed men who oblige the military to patrol the streets continuously here and in other Nicaraguan cities. Early this morning four armed persons held up a local gas station and stole some tires when they were unable to locate the cash register.

REBEL ARMY COMBATANTS, COLLABORATORS SEND MESSAGE TO FIDEL

FL021914 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received a message from the combatants and collaborators of the rebel army's Jose Marti Column 1, who were decorated with the 20th Revolutionary Armed Forces Anniversary Commemorative Medal.

In the message the revolutionary combatants and collaborators referred to the days of the war during which they fought under the commander in chief. In addition, special mention of those who heroically fell for the revolution's triumph is made. To them we say, the message states, that if they were capable of giving their lives for the sake of the revolution, we will give ours by fulfilling day after day our duties in the front-line of the proletariat, loyally following your orders of working with the experience of the past 20 years and the enthusiasm of the first day.

CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC PLANNERS CONCLUDE HAVANA MEETING

FL011442 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1302 GMT 1 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The final documents resulting from the first meeting of planning experts from Caribbean countries, which ended last night in this capital, were approved with modifications which were more in form than in content. The event approved a final resolution, 20 recommendations and one resolution on integrating women into development planning. The meeting was attended by Enrique Iglesias, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA); Jorge Mendez, director of the Latin American Institute of Economic Planning (ILPES); and [name indistinct] Clark, ECLA director for the Caribbean.

The Belize delegation, charged with drawing up the documents, received abundant praise for their work, which covered ideas, suggestions and recommendations from the Caribbean delegations.

The resolution on integrating women into development planning, which was approved at the meeting of planning experts from Caribbean countries, recommends that the topic "Women: Development in the Planning Effort" be kept in mind. The meeting also recommended that a regional study be made on the juridical position of the situation of women and on the institutional changes in the state organization. It also recommended encouraging greater use of a nation's capital in achieving the proposed objectives of the development plans.

Jorge Mendez, director of ILPES, thanked the Cuban delegation for their efforts in hosting the activity, for being able to see a serious and important reality which is the Cuban reality, and for feeling close to this Latin American process, which he sees as a cordial and hopeful process.

NONALINED COUNTRIES BROADCASTING EXPERTS MEET IN HAVANA

FL022020 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 79 FL

[Text] In Havana City, experts from 10 countries this morning began a meeting of the nonalined countries Radio and Television Cooperation Committee. Specialists in that sphere from Algeria, India, Guyana, Iraq, Jamaica, Yugoslavia, Korea and Kenya will pursue an extensive work agenda until 5 February. It is expected that the representatives from Zambia and Sierra Leone will arrive in Havana sometime today.

The opening session, which was held this morning at the Havana Libre Hotel's Solidarity Hall, was chaired by Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers; Communications Minister Pedro Guelmes; and Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT], who made the opening remarks.

[Begin Nivaldo Herrera recording] Cuba is pleased to accord you the most enthusiastic welcome on the occasion of this important event, which is essential for the achievement of common positions in a sector destined to contribute to transforming the future of our countries. At this time, the group of experts organizing the nonalined countries delegation to the 1979 world administrative conference on radio communications are meeting here in Havana. These groups of experts will discuss, among many others, the following topics.

The group of experts on radio broadcasting via satellite will gather and organize information on present space communications systems and their technical possibilities; interest expressed by nonalined countries to participate in the use of satellite communications; financial implications in the use of communications satellites and forms of adjusting them [communications satellites] to the possibilities of nonalined countries; conducting a comparative study on the technical, economic and political aspects between ground networks and systems via satellites; and possibilities of interconnecting nonalined countries radio broadcasting systems which have ground stations with those not having them.

The group of experts organizing the nonalined countries delegation to the 1979 world administrative conference on radio communications will discuss, among many others, the following topics: Proposals on the electromagnetic spectrum as well as ways to use it, especially in matters dealing with radio broadcasting and auxiliary services; examination of possibilities to expand the range of kilometric and hectometric wavelengths as needed for radio broadcasting; examination of the implied danger in the tendency of developed countries to use part of the decametric wavelengths for radio broadcasting via satellites; and other topics of equal importance.

The objective of our work is to improve the technical foundations of information and telecommunications, to improve our equipment to broaden the nonalined countries means of communications with the rest of the world--briefly stated, to have access to the channels of communications, of which about 90 percent are controlled by a small number of countries. We work in the sphere of information and telecommunications so that our countries someday will cease to be at the mercy of imperialist propaganda. We work to contribute to end the looting of our nations and replace it with progress in order to broadcast and defend our culture and history, so that the language of the peoples may replace the language of the monopolies, so that the war chant may be defeated by the chant of life. If we want our voices heard, we must work to knock down the walls of the monopolies and have open access to the world in which we live. It encourages us to know the direction and scope of our accomplishments and the unified position guiding the work of the nonalined. On behalf of our country, which is preparing to host the next nonalined countries summit conference, I welcome you and wish that a unified spirit and an eager search for common positions for the benefit of our peoples will guide the successes of your work. Thank you very much. [end recording]

ICRT ENDS 3-DAY NATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING

FL011219 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The first national information meeting of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television--ICRT--for this year has met for 3 days and included special presentations by Blas Roca, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, and other leaders of the party, state and mass organizations.

At the activity which was held at the Jibacoa tourist center in the Havana municipality of Santa Cruz del Norte, the directors and chiefs of information at the national and provincial radio stations and the television news station were briefed on the work guidelines for the first quarter of 1979. They agreed to hold the annual Juan Manuel Marquez journalism contest which is sponsored by the ICRT and the Union of Cuban Journalists--UPEC--to contribute to radio and television information work quality and encourage workers of this sector.

In his remarks Blas Roca referred to the process of reelecting officials to the people's government organs which will begin in February and will conclude in April, and he pointed out the dissemination role of the radio, press and television.

Raul Valdes Vivo, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, gave an overview of international politics and pointed out aspects which should be expanded on in radio broadcasts.

For his part, Jose Ramirez Cruz, president of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), reported on the progress of the new forms of agricultural and livestock production, and he stressed the importance of the provincial meetings of cooperative members which will be held starting now through 17 May.

Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), pointed out the tasks to be carried out in the framework of the international year of the child and the preparations for the FMC congress whose organizing committees will be formed in the 14 provinces in the second half of this month.

Earlier Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the party in Havana Province, explained the socioeconomic development in the province and greeted the participants in the name of the party bureau in the province.

Others making presentations included Carlos Aldama, second chief of the PCC Central Committee Department of Revolutionary Orientation (DOR); Nivaldo Herrera, president of the ICRT; Gilberto Diaz, first vice president of the Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN), and Jose Aranaburo, secretary of the People's Government National Assembly.

STATISTICS COMMITTEE HOLDS NATIONAL MEETING

FL012003 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 1 Feb 79 FL

[Excerpt] The State Committee for Statistics [CEE] today opened its fourth national meeting to study and approve the committee's work plan for this year. CEE Minister President Fidel Vascos made the opening remarks. He said the plan drafted for this year has the expected content, which must be enriched. Our organization has been strengthened in the 2 years since its creation, Vascos emphasized, adding that the national statistics system has been established throughout the country.

The achievements of 1978 include quality of information forms, reappraisal and making of inventories of basic equipment at all levels and introduction of a monthly report on fulfillment of the economic development plan.

CEE Minister President Fidel Vascos said that a total of nine data processing centers will be opened this year, raising to 13 the total existing in this country. We then will have, he said, a network with electronic data processing equipment which will guarantee the information process being worked on throughout the country. Fidel Vascos urged continuing to work tenaciously so as to tackle future tasks successfully. He pointed out that the effort for work efficiency with optimum use of equipment and knowledge should be given top priority this year.

TASS REPORTS CASTRO MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN

FL030018 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 79 FL

[Text] A dispatch of the Soviet news agency TASS has reported that a message was received in Moscow from Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, to Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. In the message, Fidel expresses gratitude for the congratulations on occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and confirms Cuba's decision to strengthen the indestructible ties of friendship that unite the parties and peoples of the USSR and Cuba.

ELENA GIL ADDRESSES WPC SPECIAL SESSION IN GDR

FL031411 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The special session of the World Peace Council [WPC] was declared open in Berlin by Erich Honecker, secretary general of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The forum, which marks the beginning of all activities commemorating the 30th anniversary of the movement for world peace, is being attended by more than 500 representatives from 83 countries and 32 international organizations.

In the opening session of the WPC special session, Honecker pointed out that the so-called campaign for human rights is being used by international reactionary circles to thwart the process of detente and check the demands for world disarmament. Also speaking in the opening session was Elena Gil, president of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, who charged that attacks by the forces of imperialism and reaction compel us to live on a planet which is storing away 1 billion dollars a day in arms and explosives. Likewise, she indicated that the arms race is foreign to the very essence of socialism.

The participants in the WPC special session will discuss such topics as struggling for an end to the arms race and disarmament, strengthening of solidarity with the peoples of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America and lending efficient aid to the people of Vietnam and Kampuchea.

RAMON CASTRO RECEIVED BY HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL

FL031339 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Ramon Castro, director of the Valle de Picadura genetics project, was received by (Istvan Burget), member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee and director of the Balbona agricultural project. During the talks the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the development of agriculture in the two countries. As part of the visit to Hungary at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ramon Castro also visited the [words indistinct] state farms where he was briefed on cattle and swine breeding plans.